Claims:

1   1.   A mobile switching center (MSC), comprising:

2   a processor;

3   an internal bus coupled to the processor; and

4   a memory for storing computer instructions, which
5   computer instructions define operational logic of the MSC and
6   more particularly, logic for receiving and responding to a
7   request by a called party user of a mobile station for a
8   message to be played to a calling party to advise the calling
9   party that the called party will be taking the call shortly.

1   2.   The MSC of claim 1 wherein the computer
2   instructions further define logic to prompt the MSC to prompt
3   an IVR to play a specified message to the calling party.

1   3.   The MSC of claim 2 wherein the computer
2   instructions further define logic to prompt the MSC to place
3   the calling party on hold.

1   4.   The MSC of claim 2 wherein the computer
2   instructions further define logic to prompt the MSC place the
3   calling party on hold until the MSC receives a ready
4   indication from the called party.

1   5.   The   MSC   of   claim   2   wherein   the   computer
2   instructions further define logic to prompt the MSC place the
3   calling party on hold until a specified amount of time has
4   elapsed.

1   6.   The MSC of claim 5 wherein the specified amount of
2   time is less than one minute.

1   7.   The MSC of claim 5 wherein the specified amount of
2   time is approximately equal to twenty seconds.

1   8.   The   MSC   of   claim   2   wherein   the   computer
2   instructions define logic to complete the call setup and, as
3   soon as the call is setup, prompting the IVR to play the
4   specified message.

1   9. A system for connecting a calling party to a called
2 party, comprising:

3   circuitry including logic for receiving and interpreting
4 a call request from a calling party;

5   circuitry including logic for determining the identity
6 of a communications node to which a call set up signal is to
7 be routed as a part of establishing a call between the called
8 and the calling parties; and

9   circuitry including logic for responding to a select
10 indication made upon a called party phone, which select
11 indication is a request for a specified message to be played
12 to the calling party to advise the calling party that the
13 called party will be taking the call shortly.

1   10. The system of claim 9 wherein the circuitry
2 including logic for responding further includes logic for
3 responding to a select indication that the called party is
4 ready to take the call.

1   11. The system of claim 10 wherein the circuitry
2 responds by connecting the call upon received the select
3 indication that the called party is ready to take the call.

1   12.   The system of claim 9 wherein the select indication

2   for a specified message to be played is received in the form

3   of DTMF tones.

1   13.   The system of claim 9 wherein the select indication

2   for a specified message to be played is received in the form

3   of a select DTMF tone, which select DTMF tone must be

4   received within a specified time frame triggered by on of

5   receiving an "off hook" indication or, in the case of a

6   wireless network, a call acceptance indication.

1   14.   The system of claim 9 wherein the select indication

2   for a specified message to be played is received in the form

3   of a defined signal within a defined response signal.

1   15.   The system of claim 9 wherein the circuitry further

2   includes logic to cause the call to be connected immediately

3   after receiving the select indication that is a request for a

4   specified message to be played to the calling party.

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16. A method for connecting a call placed by a calling party to a called party, comprising:

receiving an indication that a call is to be setup with the called party;

receiving an indication of the called party number;

determining a serving node for the called party;

transmitting call set up signals to the serving node;

responding to a called party response by triggering an IVR to play a select message to the calling party to advise the calling party that the called party will be taking the call shortly.

17. The method of claim 16 further including the step of connecting the call without waiting for a ready indication to connect the call.

18. The method of claim 16 further including the step of waiting for a ready indication transmitted by the called party phone prior to connecting the call.

19. The method of claim 16 wherein the call is connected after a specified period of time has elapsed since the called party response including a request was received.

1   20. The method of claim 16 wherein the called party
2 response including a request is received in the form of a
3 select DTMF tone within a specified period of time since the
4 transmission of a call setup signal to the called party
5 phone.

1   21. The method of claim 16 further comprising the step
2 of advising the calling party of a sequence of steps that the
3 calling party may take to leave a message.

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1   22.   The method of claim 16 further including the step

2 of re-entering into an alert mode of operation.

1   23.   The method of claim 22 wherein the step of re-

2 entering into an alert mode of operation occurs only upon

3 activation by the calling party.

1   24.   The method of claim 22 wherein the step of re-

2 entering into an alert mode of operation occurs automatically

3 after the expiration of a specified amount of time.